

## Slaughter to Bush: Help Low-Income

### Families Survive the Heat Wave

Emergency Funds Would Help With High Temperatures and Energy Costs

**Washington, DC-** 21 Members of Congress, led by Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, authored a bipartisan letter to President Bush calling on him to release \$47.6 million in emergency Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding to aid low-income households trying to pay their summer energy bills.

Across the Northeast and Midwest, a scorching heat wave and high energy costs are putting many Americans needlessly at risk. Western New York is in the middle its hottest July in 12 years and Rochester Gas & Electric has seen record electricity usage levels. Low-income residents, who are still trying to pay off debts incurred during last year's cold winter, are now struggling to stay cool in the sweltering summer heat.

Rep. Slaughter said, **"We have record high temperatures and record high energy prices across the country, and here in Western New York. We've seen the dangerous effects caused by extreme temperatures in the past."**

She added,

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**quot;Then, as now, the people at greatest risks are the elderly, the young and the impoverished, and the funds are there to assist them. My colleagues and I are urging President Bush to act now."**